

ವಿವರ ದಯಾವ ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ್ದು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವವರೆಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ತಡೆಹಿಡಿಯಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಇದನ್ನು ನಾಳೆಗೆ ಶೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

MR. SPEAKER.—We shall take up this question tomorrow.

QN. NO. 501

MR. SPEAKER.—Since the Hon. Minister is not feeling well, I hold over this question.

Production of Asbestos Sheets Tubes, in Karnataka

702 SRI MICHAEL B. FERNANDEZ (Bharthinagar).—Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state.—

(a) the quantity of asbestos sheets, tubes dust and fibre produced and/or used last year in Karnataka ;

(b) whether the Government is aware that researches carried out in the West have shown that asbestos causes the occupational disease asbestos is leading to lung cancers, etc;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to carryout similar research through the Health Department and prescribe suitable preventive measures for the safety of workers in particular and the consume public in general;

(d) whether the Government would consider providing legal and insurance protection to all these who many become victims of asbestories or any other disease. caused by the use of asbestos ?

SRI A. B. JAKANUR (Minister for Labour).—

(a) The quantity of asbestos, roofing sheets and accessories produced in the State during the year 1979-1980 is 33,240 MT.

(b) Yes.

(c) No facilities are available at present for the public in general. The matter of setting up an Industrial Hygiene Laboratory is under consideration of Government.

(d) This being declared as one of the occupational diseases under Schedule III, necessary provisions for payment of compensation, has been made under the provisions of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—Sir, before I put my question I would like to point out one little error in the Kannada translation.

.. ಪತ್ತಿ ಮ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಲ್ಕಾದಿನಿಂದ ಶ್ವಾಸಕೋಶ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಮುಂತಾದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಹುಟ್ಟುವ ಆಸ್ಟೆಟಾಸಿಸ್ ಎಂಬ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುವುದಾಗಿ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿರುವುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರಿಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿದೆಯೇ

That is not how it has been put in English. It is the other way about. Sir, the question could be a little misleading. Now, I want to say that it is the disease asbestos which leads to lung cancer.

SRI A. B. JAKNUR.—Sir, I request that English version of the answer may be considered.

SRI MICHAEL B. FERNANDEZ.—Could you be able to tell us how many cases of compensation have been disposed of by the State machinery in respect of these who suffer one to the use of asbestos and what is the level of incidence of disease due to the use of asbestos and lung cancer arising out of the use of asbestos?

SRI A. B. JAKNUR.—Sir, the details are not available with me because it is a very complicated question pertaining to Industries and Health Departments. The last question comes under the Labour Department. However, I have taken the responsibility of answering this question. If the hon. Member so desires, I will furnish the information later on.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—Sir, I have a special interest in putting this question because there are some recent investigations in the West. For example, in America alone they have detected something like 12 million cases where people have been affected by the use of asbestos. If in a country like that where living conditions are comparatively better than that of our country, what about the fate of our country. This is a tropical with dry and industrial atmosphere and so on. Disintegration of asbestos products is much faster in this country. Incidence of this is much higher. We know, compensation cases of the very small order. If all cases put together, it will hardly be any thing. The Department should see that compensation is given to all workers who have been affected. I do not believe that there are no compensation cases of asbestos in the State. That is why, I request the Hon. Minister and the Ministers concerned to apply their mind to this. Another question is, do you not have proper arrangements for investigation in this line. But, you are thinking of setting up a research wing. But, this is matter on which you will have to take lot of interest and set up a laboratory. In the mean while, would

you atleast. put some doctors of the Health Department in public ector industries to conduct quick investigation of this complaint? Would you be willing to do that?

SRI A. B. JAKNUR.—That will have to be considered. It is a good suggestion.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—Sir, on every cigarate pack, there is a statutory warning 'smoking is injurious to health' Like-wise, would you find out some way through your Government or Central Government to educate people that these are dangerous things involved in the use of asbestos. Would you educate school going children and house wives because lot of asbestos contents get into house hold articles. Would you be prepared to put such a statutory warning in respect of these materials?

SRI A.B. JAKNUR.—At present, it is under the Consideration of the Government.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—In the West, there is already some concerted effort being made to find out suitable substitutes for asbestos. In our country, here, one does not see to it, but on the other land, asbestos is being used in more and more places in items, articles and so on where we would not have used. That trend is continued in this country. Would you try to see that the use of asbestos is reduced and substitutes are found?

SRI A.B. JAKNUR.—I cannot say anything at present. because we have to consider it.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—Sir, this answer, 'we will have to consider', is not a proper one. I am saying that there is danger in using asbestos. The whole world has recognised it. I am asking, whether he would initiate moves to find out substitute for it.

SRI A.B. JAKNUR.—Before taking any action, we have to consider it, sir.

MR. SPEAKER.—Just, he cannot say that he would consider it. You are putting him in a fix.

SRI MICHEAL B. FERNANDEZ.—It is the dnty of the Labou^r Departmenn to lookafter the safety of workers as well as the safety of general public. He will have to consider public safety. I think more rationable is involved in this.

MR. SPEAKER.—Can you take such a decision as to say that the Government would instruct or put some advertisement or some such thing where this is not in use or it is in less use? Can you take such a decision right now?

SRI A.B. JAKNUR.—Sir, that will have to be considered.